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university officials who are undertaking to give vocational guidance to undergraduate students, and it would certainly furnish enlightenment to boards of trustees of colleges and universities and those who are responsible for the selection of capable civil servants. Although there is the lack of unity characteristic of papers prepared under arrangements of this kind, there is a high level of literary ability maintained, as well as a vigorous grasp of professional and economic problems.

SOPHONISBA P. BRECKINRIDGE

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Law, Legislative and Municipal Reference Libraries. By JOHN B. KAISER. Boston Book Co., 1914. 8vo, pp. xii+467. \$4.00.

Including an index of thirty-three pages, Mr. Kaiser's "introductory manual" of law, legislative, and reference libraries comprises a book of 467 pages. Important as these types of special libraries have grown to be within five or six years, it is doubtful if a sense of proportion would justify such a formidable exposition of the subject. The inclusion of many lists of catalogues and other library publications, some of them of passing or doubtful utility, is responsible for much of this bulk. Perhaps, after all, it is ungenerous to complain of overabundance when there can be no criticism of omission. Mr. Kaiser has certainly garnered the field diligently. But he has been more than a mere compiler of disassociated facts. In orderly and logical arrangement he traces, from inception, the evolution of the law and legislative libraries, clearly indicating their departure from the purposes which originally gave rise to their establishment, and their present-day attempt to meet the expanding needs of public officials, administrative and legislative, and of publicists and quasi-public organizations. He well summarizes the distinction between these types of related special libraries:

The law library must provide the facts of existing law for those who must apply it as it is—the judge, the practitioner of law, and law students. Legislative and municipal reference libraries aim to supply one factor of the problem of intelligent legislation by providing in addition to existing law the facts of comparative experience, both to be used by lawmakers as a basis for more intelligent and scientifically planned legislation.

Law libraries, doubtless owing to the fact that they serve smaller groups of users, are far more numerous than legislative reference libraries. Of the former, 534 in the United States, and 100 in Canada, embracing

governmental, court, school, and association law libraries, have been listed by the American Association of Law Libraries. Thirty-four of the states have established legislative reference libraries, and most of the cities in the chief group of municipalities now support similar bureaus adapted to their own special local needs. Their differences of method and of scope are pointed out by Mr. Kaiser, who adds his own informing comment, criticism, and suggestion. He also quotes liberally from recognized authorities on the making and revision of law, their views on the lack of expert advice hitherto, and the need of critical data and information as to world-experience in order to secure scientific legislation. The conclusion reached is that ill-advised and ill-assimilated legislation, while doubtless influenced in part by popular prejudices, is more often due to lack of opportunity to secure and study authoritative information. The multiplication of reference bureaus dealing each within its own province with the increasingly complex problems of state or city, and not only aiming to furnish recognized and important economic and social principles to lawmakers, but attempting as well through experts to give proper legal form to statutes and ordinances, is therefore regarded as ultimately furnishing a partial remedy at least for the ills now afflicting the statute books.

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The Operation of the New Bank Act. By THOMAS CONWAY, JR., and ERNEST M. PATTERSON. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1914. 8vo, pp. 431. \$2.00 net.

The authors of this volume have performed a real public service in connection with the reorganization of our banking system. In less than a month from the passage of the currency act in December this book was available for the use of teachers, bankers, and business men generally; and there can be little doubt that it has been of much assistance in acquainting the country with the nature and scope of the new banking system and especially with the problems arising in connection with its inauguration. The writing of the book had been begun about six months before the passage of the act, thus making possible its early appearance. It is evident that a book thus hastily and prematurely written must necessarily prove of only temporary service; and the authors have frankly recognized its ephemeral character.

The method of exposition employed has been to present, first, a general summary of the law, and then to analyze it under the following